

# West Lake Elementary PTA Newsletter

Winter 2012

Visit Our Website:  
[www.wlepta.net](http://www.wlepta.net)



## Thank You, PTA Members & Supporters!

We're halfway through the school year, and there's no better time to thank our members, volunteers and supporters.

I'm truly appreciative of the WLE community's support of our recent fundraising events, including the day at **Barnes & Noble** and the **Boosterthon** pep rallies and Fun Runs held at school, as well as **Family Science Night**.

These activities helped encourage things that are important to all of us as parents -- reading, science, physical fitness and character development. And thank you, Wallabies, for helping us earn so much money for our school!

On behalf of the entire PTA, I'd like to recognize the following volunteers for their recent efforts and a job well done: Veena Misra, Nancy Yoash, Carman Webb, Kelli Kimball, Rachelle Chiang, Sarah Tangeman, Charlene Kryszak, Meredith Bagwell, Elaine Hamill, Amy Price, Jill Shanahan, Kristin McClain, Beth McFarland, Jodi Rudd, Tara Riordan and Maureen Bates.

Save the date for Wallypalooza on **Thursday, April 26**. Mark your calendar -- you don't want to miss it!

I hope to see you at 6:00 pm on **Thursday, March 8** for the **Principal Input Session** at WLE. Southwestern area superintendent Julye Mizelle wants your input on what qualities you'd like to see in our next school principal. Please see pg 4 for details.

Also, we're in need of strong, dedicated leaders to join the **2012-2013 WLE PTA**. We are very grateful to those who have already expressed interest in joining the executive board. Taking an active role in PTA leadership means you're making a difference for current and future Wallabies! E-mail us ASAP at **WestLakePTA@gmail.com** and we'll get the ball rolling.

Thank you!  
*Lisa DeSimone*  
President, WLE PTA

## Key Dates

- ◆ **Feb. 24**  
Picture Day and the deadline for pre-ordering yearbooks.
- ◆ **Feb. 28**  
Last day to turn in Box Tops.
- ◆ **March 1**  
WLE Science Fair, 5:30-7:30 pm.
- ◆ **March 2**  
Spirit Day! Wear your favorite sports team jersey/outfit, WLE school colors or Spirit Wear.
- ◆ **March 5**  
PTA meeting at 5:45 pm in the WLE Media Center.
- ◆ **March 8**  
Principal Input Session, 6:00 pm at WLE

## School Administration Changes

The WLE PTA wishes **Chell Smith** the best of luck in her new role as principal of Wake Forest Elementary School. Mrs. Smith's last day will be Feb. 29.

As the district searches for a new principal, our interim principal beginning March 1 will be retired school administrator **Charles Langley**.

Mr. Langley is currently scheduled to remain at WLE through April 30, 2012.

Most recently, Mr. Langley was interim principal of Heritage Middle School and an administrative observer at Walnut Creek Elementary School, both in Raleigh. Prior to those appointments, he was interim principal for multiple

schools undergoing leadership transitions, including Dillard Drive Elementary and Middle Creek Elementary.

We look forward to welcoming Mr. Langley back to WLE. In 2009, he served as interim principal for three months prior to Mrs. Smith's arrival.

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For information on kindergarten registration, school tours, track-in and track-out dates, early-release information and more, please visit the West Lake Elementary School website at [westlakees.wcps.net](http://westlakees.wcps.net).



## Stay in the Loop: Join the PTA E-mail List

In an effort to reduce printing expenses as well as paper cost and waste, the WLE PTA posts the most current information available on our website at [www.wlepta.net](http://www.wlepta.net).

We also send out informational e-mails every month, in addition to e-mail reminders about upcoming events.

This is the quickest and most cost-effective way to share timely news about our activities and occasional

school-related, non-PTA news that may be of interest to WLE families.

Did you know that you don't have to be a PTA member to receive our e-mails?

If you're not receiving our e-mails, but you want to, please send us an e-mail at [WestLakePTA@gmail.com](mailto:WestLakePTA@gmail.com) with **add me** as the subject line, and we'll add you to our growing network of well-informed Wallabies. We do not and will not give your e-mail address to anyone else.

## 2012 WLE Science Fair Information

The annual PTA-sponsored Science Fair will be held **March 1 from 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm**. We've broken another record this year, with 300+ students working on more than 260 projects! *Registration is now closed. No more projects can be accepted due to space limitations.*

Several rules have changed this year, so please be sure to read through the registration and planning guide and the information for registered exhibitors. Both documents can be found online at

[www.wlepta.net](http://www.wlepta.net) on the Programs tab. Remember, foods and liquids are not allowed this year.

We will accept Science Fair projects for a limited time on **Wednesday, Feb. 29**, from 6:30 pm-7:30 pm only. Please arrive by the cafe/gym doors if you plan to drop off your project during this time. Otherwise, please drop off your project on Thursday, March 1, between 7:30 am-9:00 am.



## Family Science Night Was a Blast!

WLE Family Science Night was a blast -- literally! On Jan. 23, approximately 76 students and their families converged on the multipurpose room, which had been transformed into an exciting, fun-filled science laboratory.

Attendees enjoyed eight hands-on Family Science Challenge experiments, including Kooky Pencils, Balancing Butterflies, Lincoln Drops and the Nifty Balloon Trick. Smashed soda cans, paint

splatters, wet pennies and a chorus of popping balloons were all part of the plan, and we're not sure who had more fun -- the kids or the parents!

The PTA thanks **Carman Webb**, VP of Programs, as well as **Veena Misra** and **Nancy Yoash** for their tireless efforts to get WLE students excited about science and technology.

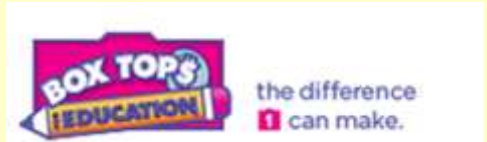
## Box Tops for Education: Last Collection Feb. 28

Every little bit helps, and there's no better evidence than the way those Box Tops add up for West Lake Elementary!

Thank you to everyone who dutifully clips those little squares and sends them to school with your kids. We appreciate each and every one!

The final collection of Box Tops for the 2011-2012 school year is on Feb. 28. Please take a peek in your cabinets and

pantries and look for those telltale pink logos! Clip 'em and toss 'em in a baggie labeled with your child's name, grade, track and teacher name, then send them to school with your child ASAP. Thank you!



## Volunteers Needed: Science Fair, Wallypalooza

Thank you to the many parents who have volunteered to assist with PTA activities. Many hands make light work, and we couldn't do it without you!

We need volunteers for the Science Fair on March 1 and Wallypalooza on April 26. If you can help with the Science Fair, please send an e-mail to Nancy.Yoash@sas.com.

If you're already on our PTA volunteer list, look for e-mails from our VP of

Volunteering, **Roseann Ehlers**. She's using SignUpGenius.com to build out a volunteer schedule for Wallypalooza. SignUpGenius also sends convenient reminders to volunteers who have committed to helping out with a particular event.

To add your name to the PTA volunteer list, please download the form from our website, fill it out, then return it to school in your eldest child's backpack.



## Wallabies Shop Up a Storm at Barnes & Noble



We knew our Wallabies liked to read, but maybe we didn't realize how much!

Thank you to **Sarah Tangeman** and **Kelli Farrell-Kimball** for coordinating the Barnes & Noble Fundraiser in December

2011. Our full day of fun activities and shopping for a cause was the single most successful fundraiser the Cary B&N has ever held, netting the WLE PTA a check for nearly **\$1500**.

Thank you also to the many WLE teachers and staff who found time to participate, and thank you to parents and PTA supporters for coming out in droves. All of you helped make this event a huge success!

## Boosterthon Fun Run: An EPIC Adventure!

Kudos to **Rachelle Chiang**, **Kelli Farrell-Kimball** and all of our teachers and volunteers for doing a great job with Boosterthon in January!

The kids loved every minute, from the pep rallies to Captain Kyle's classroom visits, prize deliveries and especially the outdoor Fun Runs. Music filled the air as excited runners wearing free Boosterthon tees tore up the WLE track.

The WLE PTA netted approximately **\$22,000 in profit** from Boosterthon pledges! WOW! That will make a huge difference for our school. Teachers were also thrilled to have 10% of their class pledge totals donated back to them for classroom supplies. Congrats to **Miss Elise Radcliff**, whose 1<sup>st</sup>-graders led the school by collecting more than \$2900 in Boosterthon pledges!

Will WLE do Boosterthon again next year? Only the 2012-2013 PTA executive board can decide. Stay tuned!



In our Feb. 6 PTA meeting, which more than 27 members attended, a revised budget was voted on and passed to help us allocate some of the funds you've helped us raise this year. Review the revised budget at [www.wlepta.net](http://www.wlepta.net). Highlights of new expenditures include:

- New chairs for the school's media center.
- SmartBoard projector mounting/installation.
- Improvements to the Guided Reading library.

West Lake Elementary  
School PTA  
Apex, NC

E-mail us:  
WestLakePTA@gmail.com

Website:  
www.wlepta.net



**Link your  
Harris Teeter  
VIC Card  
to WLE!**

Our school code: **2311**

Link your VIC card to our school code and we'll receive a percentage of your purchases at Harris Teeter every time you use your VIC card! Friends and family in other cities and states can link their VIC cards to WLE too -- all they need is our code.

**Pass it on!**

## Nominating Committee Needed: 2012-13 WLE PTA

Two volunteers are needed to help find candidates for a 1-year term on the WLE PTA Executive Board.

Most of the current PTA board members cannot return for a second year of service. At least 3 officers (President, Treasurer and Secretary) must be in place for the PTA to continue operating next year.

Many thanks to those who have already

expressed interest in joining the executive board next year.

Can you help out with this much-needed nominating committee? Please send an e-mail to **WestLakePTA@gmail.com** and/or attend the next PTA meeting on Monday, March 5 at 5:45 pm in the WLE media center.

## Principal Information Session: Thursday, March 8

Southwestern area superintendent Julye Mizelle wants your input on the next principal of our school!

There will be a **Principal Information Session** at West Lake Elementary on Thursday, March 8 at 6:00 pm.

In this session, parents are asked to share the qualities (skills, traits, personality and characteristics) they would like to see in our next principal.

Information gathered from this session will help the district build a profile for the next principal of West Lake Elementary.

While this is not a WLE PTA event, we have been asked by Ms. Mizelle's office to help spread the word about this session to WLE families. This is a critical point in our school's leadership

transition and its future. If you have feedback, this event is the time and place to share it!



## Wallaby Word Search

P	E	N	C	I	L	S	O	S
P	R	O	J	E	C	T	S	H
S	D	M	J	S	O	V	P	V
T	X	S	T	C	M	C	V	A
U	Y	Y	E	I	P	A	W	C
D	L	K	A	E	U	L	M	A
E	I	S	C	N	T	E	P	T
N	B	P	H	C	E	N	R	I
T	R	E	E	E	R	D	I	O
S	A	C	R	T	S	A	N	N
Q	R	I	Q	G	N	R	C	H
U	Y	A	N	T	U	I	I	A
X	L	L	D	O	R	W	P	S
M	W	S	K	M	S	I	A	W
O	S	X	C	K	E	M	L	K

## 2012-2013 School Calendars Still in Flux

Don't plan your vacations just yet!

The **2012-13 Wake County School Calendars** are being reviewed due to changes in the number of days of instruction passed by the North Carolina Legislature in 2011. These changes became law *after* the Board of Education had already approved the 2012-13 calendars (whoops!).

This information came as a surprise to many parents, so it's essential that we all stay tuned to local media and the Wake County Public School System's website (www.wcpss.net).

# GO WALLABIES!

TEACHER	PENCILS	STUDENTS
PRINCIPAL	SCIENCE	NURSE
SPECIALS	LIBRARY	CALENDAR
COMPUTERS	PROJECTS	VACATION